



PRESS RELEASE

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Maintenance and Restoration Work Begins on Adobe Creek

(Santa Rosa, CA) — Maintenance and restoration work will begin on two reaches of Adobe Creek in Petaluma - Sartori and McDowell - starting September 29. The Adobe Creek Restoration Project is a collaborative project between the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District (RCD), City of Petaluma (City), and the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA).

The RCD is managing the projects, including permit coordination, along with conducting work on the Sartori reach. SCWA will be removing sediment from the existing concrete sediment basin and the concrete box culverts at South McDowell Blvd. The City owns both sections of Adobe Creek.

“The removal of accumulated sediment from the existing sediment basin and the box culvert will reduce the risk of flooding to adjacent businesses and properties,” said Jon Niehaus, SCWA stream maintenance coordinator. “This maintenance approach presents a long-term solution to managing the sediment load while minimizing disturbance to the creek.”

The Project will improve winter flow conveyance while minimizing impacts to fish and wildlife habitat. Maintenance and restoration work will include vegetation maintenance, bank repairs, sediment removal, and native plant re-vegetation. SCWA will remove approximately 2000 cubic yards of sediment and reestablish low flow channels. The RCD will remove a gravel bar that is blocking a culvert, repair an unstable bank and a secondary channel erosion site, remove blackberry and limb willows, and plant native vegetation along the reach.

The multi-year project will cost \$225,000, provided by tax assessments from Flood Control Zone 2A. The in-stream work will be completed this fall, with planting occurring this winter and plant maintenance in the spring/summer for the next two years.

“The RCD has worked with many public, private, and regulatory interests in an effort to implement a project that balances the public flooding concerns with the habitat needs of federally-listed species,” said Jason Sweeney, RCD project manager. “The project evolved based on regulatory requirements, community and stakeholder input, and changes that occurred within the creek itself. We’re taking incremental steps that are part of the long term goal of supporting natural stream function. It has been challenging and has taken some time, but I feel the effort is paying off and we’re grateful to everyone who has been involved.”

The Project required permits from the Army Corps of Engineers (with consultation from the National Marine Fisheries Service), the Department of Fish and Game, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. The RCD also had consultation from US Fish and Wildlife Service for the use of herbicides.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.